

Dear Public Housing Authority (PHA) Executive Director, Section 8 Director/Manager, PHA staff, Realtors, Lenders, Appraisers, Real Estate Inspectors, Real Estate Title/Settlement Companies, Housing and Credit Counseling Agencies, Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSE's), Nonprofit Housing Organizations, and Federal, State, City and County Agencies:

Homeownership represents the realization of the American Dream for many families. It is also good public policy because it is known to promote social and economic benefits for the homeowners and the communities in which they reside, and it is often a key component of families moving to self-sufficiency. The Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Program is a tool with enormous potential to increase the number of new homeowners.

In an effort to realize the potential of this program and share a few of its successes, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has joined with the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation (NRC) in sponsoring a Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Program (HCVHP) training workshop to be held in HUD's New York/New Jersey Region on July 27-28, 2005, at the New York LaGuardia Airport Marriott Hotel, 102-05 Ditmars Boulevard, East Elmhurst, New York, toll-free at (800) 228-9290, or at (718) 565-8900.

This event will include representatives of PHAs that operate successful homeownership programs, realtors, lenders, underwriting loans under the homeownership program, State Housing Finance Agencies, as well as housing and credit counseling agencies. Our purpose is to assist PHAs to either create a homeownership program, or expand an existing one. The two-day homeownership-training workshop will consist of:

Day 1 – Nuts and Bolts: Workshop Training to Create or Expand a Successful Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Program (July 27).

Day 2 – Managing a Successful Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Program/Best Practices: Managing strategies and panel discussions with PHAs in New York and New Jersey; State Housing Finance Agencies; lenders currently underwriting loans under the HCVHP; and housing and credit counseling agencies will also participate in the panel discussion (July 28).

Since these training workshops address a range of issues affecting the program, HUD and NRC are requesting your participation. Please complete the registration form and forward it directly to Marietta Rodriguez at the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation no later than Monday, July 21, 2005. The registration form can be found on www.hud.gov/pih. Please email or fax your registration form to Ms. Rodriguez at mrodriguez@nw.org, or by fax at (303) 782-5568. Questions can also be directed to Ms. Rodriguez at (303) 512-0512. You are responsible for reserving your hotel room by contacting the New York LaGuardia Airport Marriott Hotel. HUD and NRC thank you for helping low-income and minority families achieve the American Dream of Homeownership.